CLAIMS

We claim:

1   1.   A method for processing invoices, comprising the steps

2   of:

3   preparing an invoice image;

4   storing said invoice image in an image store;

5   keying said image to invoice data;

6   communicating invoice confirmation request to a

7   requester, said request including said invoice data and

8   a link to said invoice image;

9   responsive to requester selection of said link,

10   displaying said invoice image.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   preparing said invoice images by scanning paper

3   invoices received from a vendor.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2   preparing other of said invoice images by converting

3   electronic invoices received from a vendor into an

4   image file representation having the look and feel of a

5   paper invoice.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, said invoice confirmation

2   request advising said requester to process said confirmation

3   as negative confirmation or a positive confirmation.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, said invoice confirmation

2   request further advising said requester to log on to a

3   front- end requisition and catalog server to view invoices

4   for confirmation.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, further comprising the step

2   responsive to said requester logging on to said front-end

3   server of displaying a list of invoices awaiting

4   confirmation and responsive to user selection of a selected

5   invoice, presenting images of invoices corresponding to

6   links selected by said requester.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of

2   presenting to said requester an interface for selecting

3   images of invoices matching a selection criteria.

1   8.   A method for processing invoices, comprising the steps

2   of:

3   selectively executing a positive confirmation process

4   or a negative confirmation process;

5   said confirmation processes including communicating to

6   a user browser an image of said invoice to be approved,

7   said image selectively resulting from scanning a paper

8   invoice, or from converting an electronic invoice, into

9   an image file.

1   9.   A system for processing invoices, comprising:

2   a front-end requisition and catalog system;

3   a back-end procurement services system;

4   a scanner for scanning images of invoices;

5   an image system and store for storing said scanned

6   images and serving them to said workstation keyed to

7   said invoice;

8   a workstation selectively receiving user entry of a

9   requisition request, receiving confirmation requests,

10   and viewing images of invoices from said image system

11   and store;

12   said front-end system selectively receiving requisition

13   requests from said workstation, forwarding said

14   requisition requests to said back-end system, and

15   receiving confirmation requests from said back-end

16   system for forwarding to said workstation; and

17 said back-end system selectively issuing purchase

18 orders against said requisitions, receiving and

19 processing invoices, keying invoice images to invoice

20 information, and processing confirmation requests to

21 said front-end system for communication to said

22 workstation.

1   10.   A program storage device readable by a machine,

2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a

3   machine to perform method steps for processing invoices,

4   said method steps comprising:

5   preparing an invoice image;

6   storing said invoice image in an image store;

7   keying said image to invoice data;

8   communicating invoice confirmation request to a

9   requester, said request including said invoice data and

10   a link to said invoice image;

11   responsive to requester selection of said link,

12   displaying said invoice image.

1   11. A computer program product or computer program element

2   for processing invoices according to steps comprising:

3   preparing an invoice image;

4   storing said invoice image in an image store;

5   keying said image to invoice data;

6   communicating invoice confirmation request to a

7   requester, said request including said invoice data and

8   a link to said invoice image;

9   responsive to requester selection of said link,

10   displaying said invoice image.